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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,899	12/14/2001	Loic Brunel	217148US2	4199
22850	7590	01/16/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			CORRIELUS, JEAN B	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2611		
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS	01/16/2007		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/014,899	BRUNEL, LOIC	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jean B. Corrielus	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,8,9,11-13,15 and 16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3-7,10 and 14 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc. In addition, please remove reference to "fig. 3" and delete the title.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 11/13/06. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1, line 2, "steps" should be changed to "step" since only one step is subsequently recited; line 6, "(Sk (t)) should be inserted so as to provide antecedent for subsequent recitation in claim 2. Claim 7, line 6, "mathematically" should be inserted before "cannot" so as to be consistent with similar recitation in claim 6. Claim 8, "(Y^R (i)) should be deleted. Claim 9, "(Y^I (i)) should be deleted. Claim 11, last line, "at an output of" should be replaced by "after" since the filtering step does not include an output.

Claim 12, last line, "at the input of" should be replaced by "before" since the filtering step does not include an input. In addition, "to the received signal" should be inserted in line 3, after "users" so as to be consistent with similar changes made to claim 11. Note that any claim whose base claim is objected is likewise objected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification.

As per claim 1, Applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification disclose a method and apparatus comprising the step of detecting within said received signal a plurality of possible symbols transmitted by or for a plurality of k users, each of the plurality of k symbols belonging to a modulation constellation and being subject to spectral spreading by a spreading sequence see page 6, lines 24-33, said detecting step comprising: filtering a received signal to produce complex vectors see page, the complex vectors include (decompose into) real vector and imaginary vector see col6, lines 24-27; searching separately the symbols closest to the real and imaginary vectors corresponding to the constellation(lattice) of symbols see page 6,

lines 29-31 and estimating the transmitted symbols from the components of said closest neighbors of the real and imaginary vectors see page 6, lines 31-33.

As per claims 8 and 9, Applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification further teaches prior to the searching step, the real vector/or imaginary vector is subjected to a matrix processing see page 6, lines 5-18.

As per claim 13, the symbols for k users are synchronously transmitted and the lattice of points is of dimension k. see page 2, lines 12-24.

As per claim 15, the method is implemented using fig. 2 (processor).

As per claim 16 the detection device is embodied in a receiver is use in CDMA see page 1, line 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification. As per claim 2, applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification discloses every feature of the claimed invention but does not explicitly teach using a spreading sequence consisting of real multiples of the same complex coefficient. However, the use of a spreading sequence consisting of real multiples of the

same complex coefficient is old and well known in the art. Given that, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to modify applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification in such a way as to use of a spreading sequence consisting of real multiples of the same complex coefficient in order to be able to generate only desired PN sequence necessary to scramble the information signal.

8. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification in view of Huang et al US Patent no. 6,301,293.

As per claims 11 and 12, as applied to claim 1 above Huang discloses every feature of the claimed invention but does not explicitly teach the further limitations of eliminating other users' contributions from to the received signal corresponding to transmitted symbols already estimated at the output/input of the filtering step. Huang teaches the further limitations of eliminating other users' contributions from to the received signal corresponding to transmitted symbols already estimated see fig. 9. Given that fact, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to incorporate such a teaching in applicant's background art fig. 2 and description of fig. 2 at page 6 of the specification so as to ensure that the reconstructed signal is as close as possible to the original signal. Note that whether interference cancellation is carried prior or after filtering the end result would have been the same namely eliminate interference from other users and therefore would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 3-7,10 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B. Corrielus whose telephone number is 571-272-3020.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jean B Corrielus
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2611

1-08-07